



September 16, 2024

To: Recipients Entitled to Advance Notice under Vermont Public Utility Commission Rule 5.402(A)

Re: **Reservoir Road Solar, LLC's 45-Day Notice to Persons and Entities Entitled to Notice Pursuant to Public Utility Commission Rule 5.402(A) for a Proposed 2.375 MW Solar Array to be located off Reservoir Road in Berkshire, VT**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(f) and Vermont Public Utility Commission ("Commission" or "PUC") Rule 5.402(A), Reservoir Road Solar, LLC (the "Applicant"), is pleased to provide you with this re-issued 45-Day notice in advance of filing a petition for a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") with the Commission for a 2.375 MW solar electric generation facility to be known as the "Reservoir Road Solar Project" (the "Project"). The Applicant proposes to construct the Project on property located off Reservoir Road in Berkshire, Vermont (the "Site"). The Applicant previously provided advanced notice of this Project on June 1, 2023 to the Town of Berkshire Selectboard and the Town and Regional Planning Commissions consistent with the requirements of the Commission Rule in effect at that time, and is re-issuing this notice to the Town and Regional entities, state agencies, and adjoining landowners as listed in the certificate of service to confirm that Applicant intends to file a petition in the coming weeks.

Pursuant to the requirements of Commission Rule 5.402, the following letter includes information sufficient to understand the overall Project including the location of the facility, a description of the proposed Project, construction plans and equipment to be used. This letter also describes the rights of the noticed parties to comment on the Project plans and participate in the Section 248 review process.

This letter contains descriptions of the following:

- I. 30 V.S.A. § 248 Process Information;
- II. Project Description;
- III. Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives ;
- IV. Construction and Transportation;
- V. Preliminary Assessment of Environmental and Aesthetic Impacts;
- VI. Project Benefits; and
- VII. Expected Filing Date.

Included as attachments to this letter are:

- I. Location Map / Preliminary Site Plan
- II. Preliminary Natural Resources Map

I. 30 V.S.A. Section 248 Petition and Notice

The state permitting process for electric generation facilities requires the Applicant to provide notice to certain entities and persons 45-days prior to a formal filing with the PUC. These include:

- the municipal legislative bodies and municipal and regional planning commissions in the communities where the project will be located;
- all Adjoining Landowners;
- the host landowner(s);
- the Department of Public Service;
- the Agency of Natural Resources;
- the Natural Resources Board;
- the Division for Historic Preservation;
- the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; and
- the interconnecting utility.

Adjoining landowners to the Project were identified by using the Vermont Center for Geographical Information's online system and verified by the Town of Berkshire on September 9, 2024.

Under V.S.A. § 248(f)(1), municipal and regional planning commissions may make recommendations to Applicant within 40 days of this notice and may convene a public hearing on the proposed Project. In addition, after Applicant files its Section 248 petition with the Commission, the planning commissions may make further recommendations to the Commission. Recommendations made to the Commission pursuant to Section 248(f), or the lack of such recommendations, shall not preclude municipal or regional planning commissions from and municipal legislative bodies from exercising their rights to appear as parties pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §248(a)(4)(G)-(I).

Applicant's petition will address any written comments provided to Applicant in response to this letter or oral comments at any public hearing convened by the planning commissions related to the Section 248(b) criteria.

Please send all recommendations during this 45-Day notice period to:

Encore Renewable Energy
Attn: Jake Clark
50 Lakeside Ave #110
Burlington, VT 05401
Tel: 802-540-8368
Jake@encore.eco

For additional information regarding the Section 248 process, including your right to participate in the Commission proceeding, please refer to the Commission document “Public Participation and Intervention in Proceedings Before the Vermont Public Utility Commission” document, available on the website at:
<https://puc.vermont.gov/document/public-participation-and-intervention-proceedings-public-utility-commission>.

Information regarding the Commission’s procedures for Section 248 proceedings can also be found on the PUC’s website at:
<https://puc.vermont.gov/document/section-248-procedures>.

II. Project Description

The Applicant is proposing a 2.375 MW solar project on property located east of the Enosburg Falls Reservoir near 640 Reservoir Road in Berkshire, Vermont. The array will occupy roughly a combined 11(+/-) acres across two parcels of land. The majority of the Project will be on a parcel owned by the Village of Enosburg Falls. The electricity generated by this Project will flow to Enosburg Falls Water and Light Department (“EFWLD”).

The Site location, array footprint, and approximate property boundaries are shown in the preliminary site plan attached as Attachment 1. Reservoir Road is to the south of the Project. In summary, the Project will consist of:

- Approximately 5,500 solar panels installed on ground-mounted racking systems across roughly 11 acres of the Site:
 - Coated with non-reflective glazing
 - Approximately 10-15 feet off the ground at their highest point
 - Modules are to be mounted on fixed tilt racking systems with rows running east-west;
- A network of string inverters dispersed across the array connected with underground cables installed in protective conduit;
- A 7-8 ft agricultural style perimeter fence;
- Temporary laydown area for delivery and short-term storage of materials;
- Existing 3-phase overhead lines to be used for interconnection into the EFWLD grid; and
- An approximate 785-ft existing access road to the solar site.

III. Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives

This site was selected by the Village of Enosburg Falls because of the site’s proximity to substation infrastructure, access to three phase transmission infrastructure, even topography, and limited environmental impacts.

The Applicant worked with its consultants to configure the Project in a way that would maximize the potential energy generation benefits while minimizing environmental and

aesthetic impacts. The Applicant will continue working with all stakeholders prior to filing the CPG petition and thereafter to address any concerns.

IV. Construction & Transportation

The Applicant proposes to deliver materials for the Project using trucks and state and local roads, which are accustomed to the type of traffic representative of the proposed daily delivery of materials. Deliveries will be made to a temporary construction staging area on the Site, located off the proposed access drive. Most all transportation activity will occur during the construction phase, which would last between three and five months.

The Project is not expected to require oversize or overweight deliveries. Access to and from the Site will be restricted by perimeter fencing in order to secure the Site and prevent the public from entering the facility. All equipment associated with the Project will be installed in accordance with all applicable regulations and electrical codes.

V. Preliminary Impact Assessment

i. Aesthetics

In preparation for this 45-Day Notice, the Applicant engaged T.J. Boyle Associates of Burlington, Vermont to perform a preliminary review of potential aesthetic impacts resulting from the Project. It appears that public views of the Project will be minimal or nonexistent; the Project is bordered by trees on all sides. The Project is proposed within an existing field and would be setback approximately 700 feet from Reservoir Road, which is south of the Project.

Overall, preliminary visual assessment indicated that the Project would not result in undue impacts to the aesthetic and scenic and natural beauty of the area, and no mitigation landscaping measures are necessary given the limited viewshed. The Applicant will continue to work with the Town of Berkshire, landowner Enosburg Falls, adjoining property owners, and T.J. Boyle Associates in order to address any potential aesthetic impacts. The Applicant will file the complete TJ Boyle aesthetic report, and final mitigation measures, where warranted, with the complete petition.

ii. Environmental

The Applicant has engaged VHB, Inc. to perform preliminary due diligence as well as detailed natural resource assessments and delineations, including both database and field surveys. Results of those studies will be provided in the final petition.

Given that the Project is located within an existing agricultural field, the likelihood of impacts to most natural resources is low. VHB will conduct natural resource assessments, and impact analyses (where applicable) will be completed for criteria considered under Section 248 and as relevant to any additional necessary environmental permitting.

The Applicant will consult with state and federal agency staff as necessary pending results of detailed natural resource studies, which will inform Project design to avoid resources where possible and/or secure necessary permits, reviews, and approvals.

VI. Project Benefits

The Project is being developed in cooperation with EFWLD and Vermont Public Power Supply Authority to provide locally generated renewable energy to contribute to the achievement of EFWLD and the State of Vermont's renewable energy objectives.

VII. Conclusion

The Project is not expected to result in undue adverse impacts to the applicable criteria. The Applicant looks forward to submitting the full Section 248 petition package, which will contain all the information required by the PUC to evaluate the merits of the Project for potential award of a Certificate of Public Good and inform others of the Project's impacts and value.

The Applicant intends to file a Section 248 Petition and supporting materials with the PUC soon after the expiration of this 45-day notice period, which is expected to be no sooner than October 31, 2024.

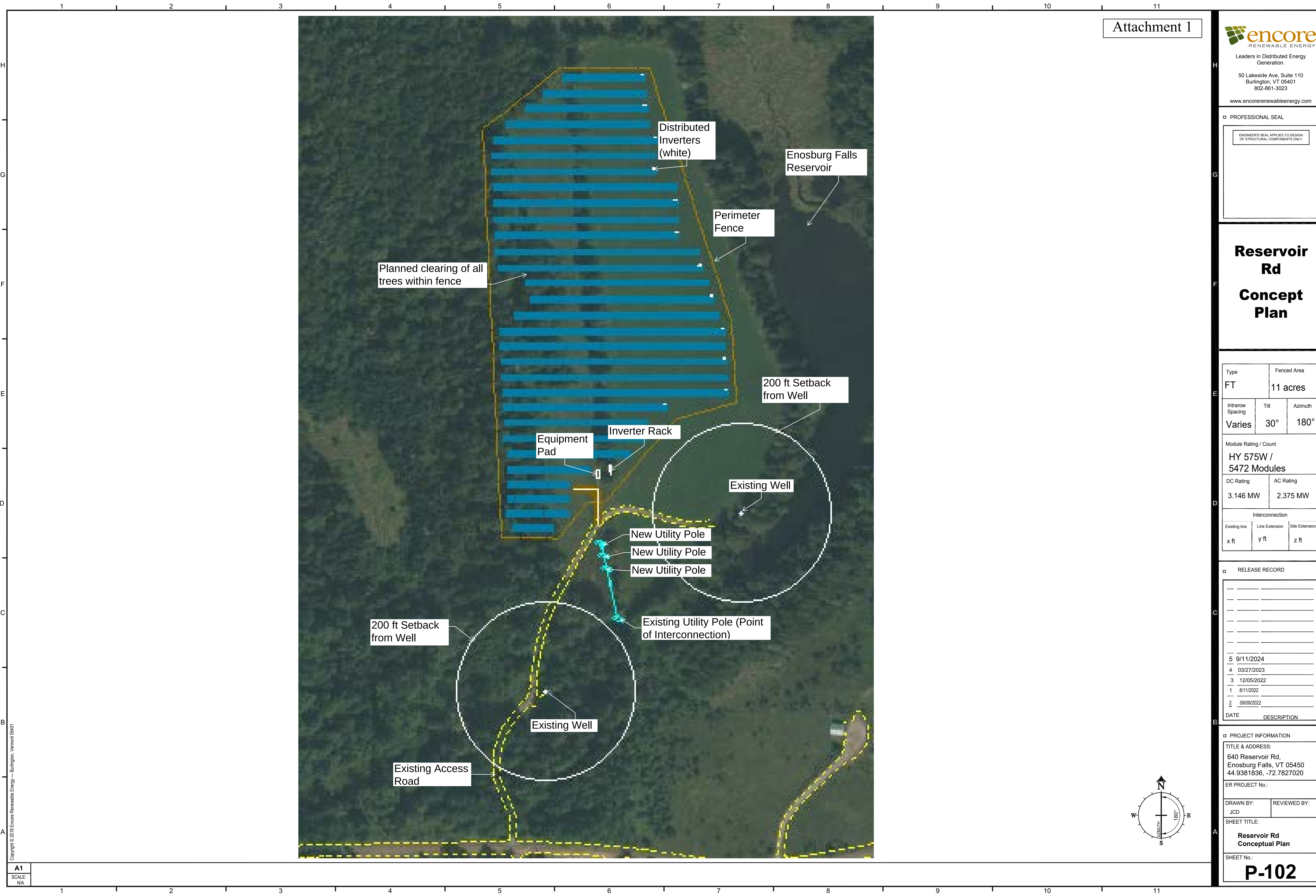
We look forward to receiving any input or suggestions you may have as we move through the Section 248 process. If you have any questions you may direct them to the Applicant by phone at 802-540-8368 or by email at Jake@encore.eco.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jake Clark

Jake Clark
Vice President of Development
Encore Renewable Energy

Attachment 1 – Preliminary Site Plan
Attachment 2 – Preliminary Natural Resources Map



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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Leaders in Distributed Energy Generation.

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802-861-3023
www.encorerenewableenergy.com

PROFESSIONAL SEAL

ENGINEER'S SEAL APPLIES TO DESIGN OF STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS ONLY

Reservoir Rd Concept Plan

Type	Fenced Area	
FT	11 acres	
Intrarow Spacing	Tilt	Azimuth
Varies	30°	180°
Module Rating / Count		
HY 575W / 5472 Modules		
DC Rating	AC Rating	
3.146 MW	2.375 MW	
Interconnection		
Existing line	Line Extension	Site Extension
x ft	y ft	z ft

RELEASE RECORD

5	9/11/2024
4	03/27/2023
3	12/05/2022
1	8/11/2022
2	09/09/2022
DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT INFORMATION

TITLE & ADDRESS:
640 Reservoir Rd,
Enosburg Falls, VT 05450
44.9381836, -72.7827020

ER PROJECT No.:

DRAWN BY: JCD
REVIEWED BY:

SHEET TITLE:
**Reservoir Rd
Conceptual Plan**

SHEET No.:
P-102

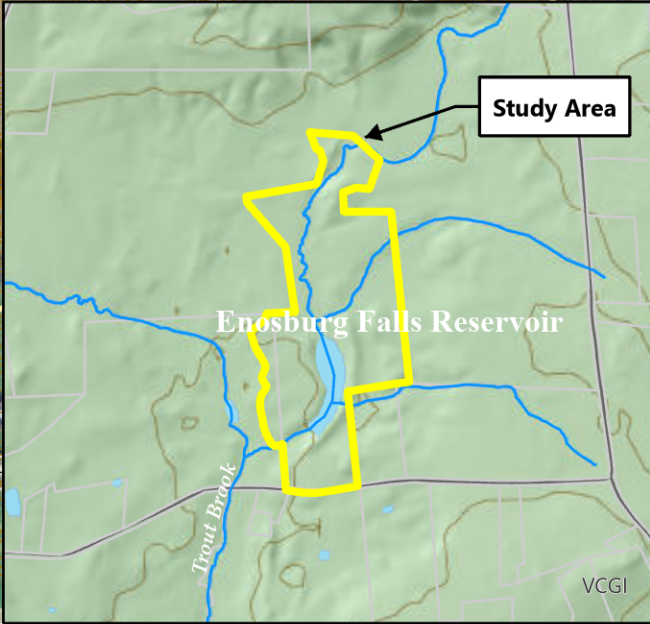
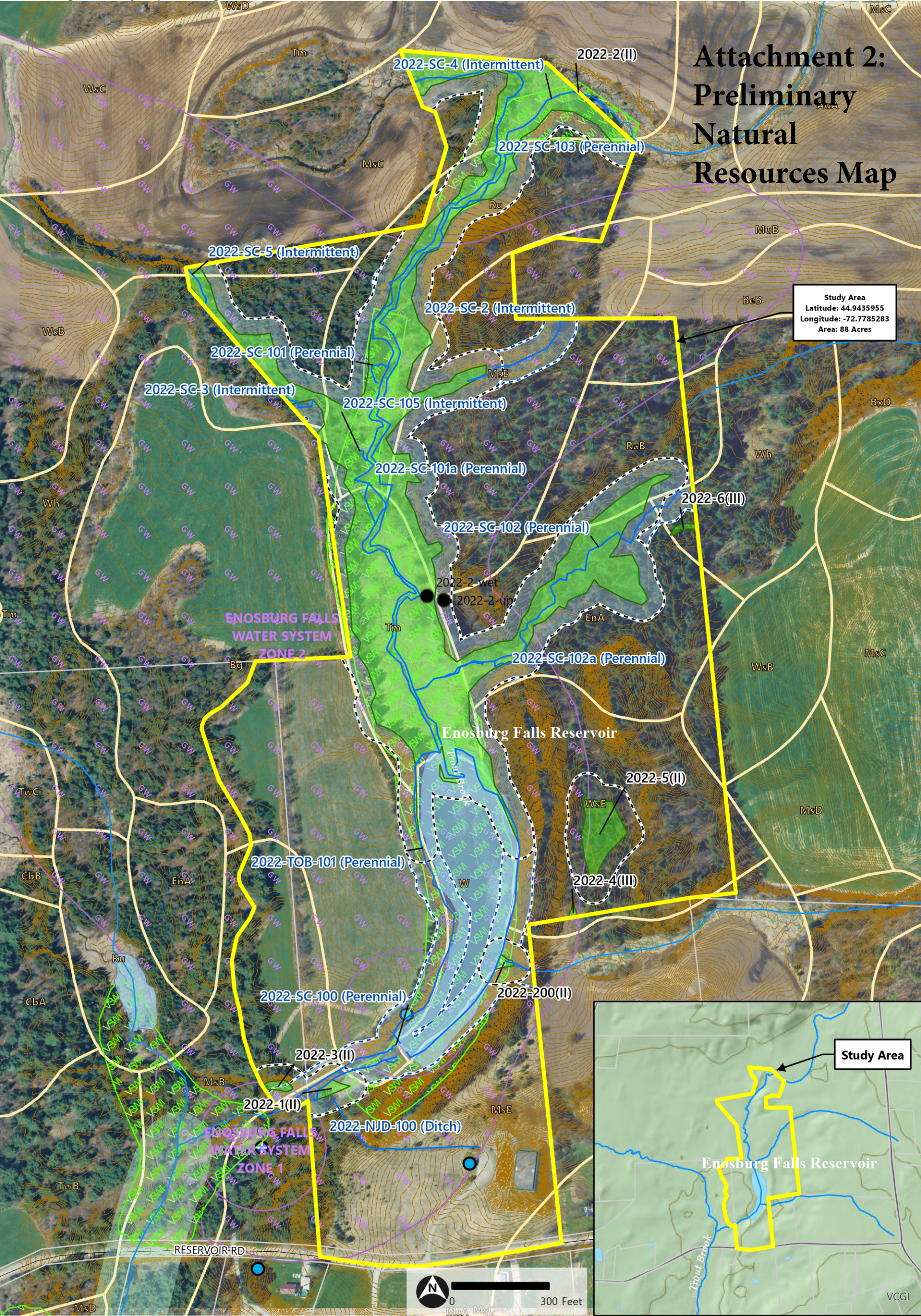
Natural Resources Map

ER Enosburg Solar Project | Enosburg, Vermont

DRAFT: November 10, 2022



Attachment 2:
Preliminary
Natural
Resources Map



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Study Area (VHB) | Waterbody (ANR) | 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (FEMA) * | Interstate (VTrans)* |
| Delineated Stream (Flow Regime) (VHB) | VSWI Wetland (ANR) | Deer Wintering Areas (ANR)* | US Highway (VTrans)* |
| Delineated Wetland (Prop. Class) (VHB) | River Corridor (ANR) | Uncommon Species (ANR)* | State Highway (VTrans)* |
| USACE Data Point (VHB) | Private Well (ANR) | Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species (ANR)* | Town Road (VTrans) |
| Riparian Buffer (VHB) | Public Water Source (ANR)* | NHI Natural Communities Element Occurrences (ANR)* | Town Boundary (VCGI)* |
| Class II Wetland Buffer (VHB) | Ground Water SPA (ANR) | AE/VCE Confirmed Vernal Pools* | Parcel Boundary (VCGI) |
| Stream (ANR)** | Surface Water SPA (ANR)* | NRCS Soil Boundary (VCGI) | 1 ft. Contours (VCGI) |

* Feature not mapped within map extent.

**Feature not present in field review

Sources: Background Imagery by VCGI (Collected in 2019), VCGI (Vermont Center for Geographic Information - Various Dates)
ANR (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources - Various Dates), FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency - Various Dates),
VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation - Various Dates), VHB (2022)

VHB Environmental Scientists (L. Keszey, K. Maines) conducted wetland and water delineations on October 18, 2022.
DEC District Ecologist, J. Follensbee, confirmed boundaries and classifications on November 2, 2022 site visit.

Path: \\vhib.com\gis\proj\SBurlington\57818.00 Encore 500 kW Solar\gis\Project\Enosburg\NR_Map_ER_Enosburg\NR_Map_ER_Enosburg.aprx (User: kmaines, Date: 11/10/2022)